



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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County and Municipal officials in Crawford, Vernon, Richland, Sauk and La Crosse counties:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is committed to doing all we can to assist local governments impacted by the severe flooding that occurred last August. Municipalities face ongoing challenges to complete emergency road repairs, while seeking federal disaster assistance in a timely manner. In cases where flood damages to local roads does not qualify for federal assistance, WisDOT is taking steps to make it easier for officials to apply for state flood damage aids.

Under the provisions of state law, (s.86.34 (1)(b), effective immediately, I am extending the deadline for local officials to file state flood damage aid claims with WisDOT to December 31, 2007. The normal deadline for such claims is 60 days following the end of the event, or October 31 for this particular disaster. We hope that extending this deadline will provide local officials additional time to address immediate transportation needs, without seriously delaying the process for providing state disaster aid.

This extension applies to the five counties that have already been declared eligible for federal disaster assistance as a result of flood damage occurring from August 18 to August 31, 2007, and other counties that may be declared eligible in the future during the same event period. The five counties that are currently eligible are: Crawford, Vernon, Richland, Sauk and La Crosse.

For other flood-related road or bridge reconstruction needs that may not be eligible for federal or state emergency funding, other state programs such as the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP), the Local Bridge Improvement Program or the STP-Rural Local Highway Program are potential funding sources. Funds may be transferred from previously approved projects to other eligible flood-related projects. Please contact your county highway commissioner if you have questions about these other programs.

Finally, if municipalities are concerned about the impact that funding flood repairs is having on local government cash flow, even though reimbursement will eventually occur, I want to make certain you are all aware of the State Trust Fund Loan program administered by the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. This is a convenient, low cost source of capital for all local governments that has a simplified application process to allow faster processing. You can contact the loan program staff in Madison at (608) 266-0034.

I want to commend all the county and municipal officials in the flood-damaged areas for their exemplary efforts in coping with these challenges, and we will continue to look for ways to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation